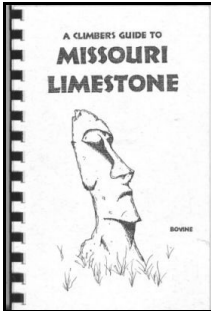


Here's the URL for the video clips:

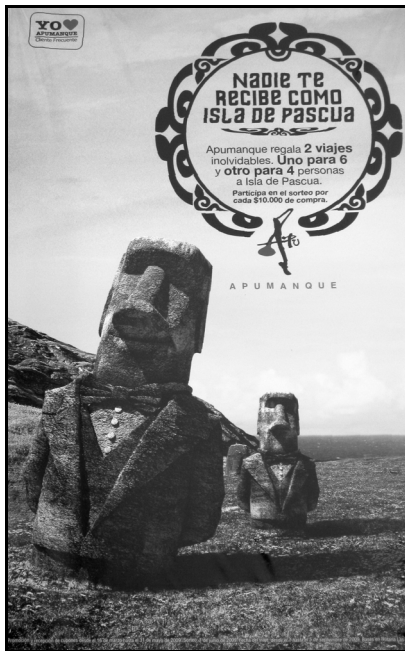
<<http://media.www.thelantern.com/media/storage/paper333/news/2009/05/15/Campus/Lively.Languages-3741594.shtml>>

Photos courtesy the Thompson Library.



IT'S NOT CLEAR why a *moai* is featured on the cover of *A Climbers Guide to Missouri Limestone*, but sometimes that's the way it goes. We don't call it "MOAI SIGHTINGS" for nothing. The spiralbound book written in 1995 by an author identified as "Bovine", has 100+ pages and features maps and diagrams. Thanks to Mark Bright for bringing this to our attention.

RIET DELSING shared with us several photos taken of a *moai*-themed billboard appearing in front of Apumanque, a shopping mall in an upscale Santiago neighborhood. The advertisement reads, "Nobody receives you like Easter Island". Apumanque gives away trips to the island as part of a lottery. One participates by first spending at least 10,000 pesos (~\$19.00). Thanks, Riet!



WHAT'S NEW ON EASTER ISLAND

A NEW BANK has opened in Hanga Roa. According to Charlie Love, the Santander Bank is "right down on the coast but east of the coastal road, and south of Playa Pea. The coast bulges to the west there so it is on a sort of rounded point. It is pretty spiffy and the ATM is inside the foyer out of the weather, and is far more secure than the one in front of the state bank" (which someone tried to steal not too long ago).

GOOD NEWS

It was reported at the end of August that ADI Environmental Technology secured a contract with the Hanga Roa Hotel to provide wastewater treatment. Design of the new system is underway and is expected to be operational for the 2009-2010 tourist season. It all goes according to plan, this system will provide such a high-quality wastewater treatment that it can be directly discharged into a "local stream" [whatever that might be!]. Apparently a similar ADI System treatment plant has been operating successfully at the island's Hotel Explora.

Source: *E-Hospitality.com* (August 20, 2009)

MATAVERI AIRPORT BLOCKED

On Sunday, August 16, Chile suspended flights to Easter Island after demonstrators occupied Mataverí Airport ostensibly in protest of unchecked tourism, Santiago's *La Tercera* reported, citing Pablo Ortega, head of the civil aviation authority. The protest started with 20 locals and eyewitness reports state that the number grew to ten times as many by the time LAN shut down flights, stranding as many as 600 passengers in Santiago alone. According to one report, the protesters parked cars on the runway.

Although an equal if greater concern appears to lie with "foreigners and even mainland Chileans settling on the island as residents", according to news reports, tourism is, after all, an important part of Easter Island's economy. "We depend on [tourism] for our livelihood", said Mayor Carmen Zasso Paoa, "but we also have to manage our water resources, energy and trash collection". Controversial demands include registering for tourists as they arrive and restricting their length of stay on the island. Flights resumed on Monday, August 17th.

Sources: *Yahoo! News*; *Bloomberg.com*;

MercoPress; *USA Today* (August 17, 2009)

Thanks also to José Miguel Ramírez, Nikko Haoa, Conny Martin, and others who kept us up to date.

FOOTBALL ON EASTER ISLAND

On August 5 the Chilean Football Association held a match on Easter Island in the field adjacent to the gymnasium and across Policarpo Toro from Ahu Tautira. The "Copa Chile" is a nationwide competition that affords amateur teams the opportunity to take on professional clubs. It's not the first time Easter Island has hosted such a match; twice before, in 1996 and again in 2000, a team from the Juan Fernández Islands played against Rapanui athletes. Although the current Easter Island team lacks professional footballers, it is composed of craftsmen, fishermen, farmers, and dancers who are described as being in good physical condition and "very enthusiastic", said trainer Miguel Angel Gamboa. The event was broadcast live across Chile by Canal 13.

Although *Fifa.com* (Chile's football's governing body) hyperbolically described the clash as the island's "match of the century", this was a disingenuous way of describing the competition, given the disparity in experience between the two teams (with Colo Colo having been dubbed the "Manchester United of Chilean Football"). Nevertheless, it turned out to be

a tough enough challenge for Colo Colo even though they won two goals in each half, with the game ending in a 4 to 0 defeat for the Easter Islanders.

But this was about more than football, BBC News reported, because of the carnival atmosphere throughout the competition. The game, it was said, was played on a bumpy pitch just yards from the beach where blustery winds blowing in from the Pacific made conditions tricky for both sides. "War dances" were performed by the Rapanui in an effort to throw their opponents off their game. It didn't work, but surely the Rapanui performed with style.

It is said that virtually the entire population turned out to watch, many wearing traditional Polynesian dress and face paint; some carrying the islands distinctive red and white *reimiro* flag.

For the Easter Island players, the cup run is over, at least for another year. Who knows what the next competition will bring?

Sources: *Fifa.com* (August 4, 2009)
& *BBC News.com* (August 7, 2009)

FULLY BOOKED ON EASTER ISLAND

One major eclipse down, another to go. That's the count-down to the total solar eclipse that will be visible from Easter Island on July 11, 2010. After the July 22, 2009 eclipse that just passed and which was visible over a wide swatch including eastern Asia, Indonesia, and parts of the Pacific (the longest of this century), the next one should still be quite spectacular even if its duration will be shorter by a minute or so if for no other reason than the fact that it'll be centered over our favorite island! But even though the July 2010 eclipse is a little less than a year away, the island is already inundated by reservations for accommodation. Said Sabrina Atamu, an information officer at Easter Island's National Tourist Service, "There's just no more room; we are totally booked. We have been taking reservations for the last five or six years".

The prospect of such another spectacular natural phenomenon occurring one year after another in such a fascinating and remote location as Easter Island has intrigued scientists and tourists alike. With something like 1500 beds available on the island, the competition is fierce. "It is already impossible to get anything to see the eclipse", said Hector Garcia of the GoChiletravel agency. "There are no more hotels, no residences, nothing", he added. Many of the reservations were made early on by "scientists from around the world". Prices, Garcia said, have risen 5- to 10-fold across the island — but that hasn't deterred the dedicated.

For more information, visit the NASA Web site dedicated to the eclipse:

<<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEmono/TSE2010/TSE2010.html>>

Source: *The Straits Times* (July 21, 2009)

NEWLY DISCOVERED CAVE SYSTEM!

Just when you thought scientists and explorers had pretty much tapped the seemingly exhaustive resources of Easter Island's unknowns comes this story about the discovery of a 6

km (2 mi.) cave system on the island said to be the 11th largest in the world! A team of experts recently explored a lava tube cave system on the island believed to have been used as a refuge by the islanders during the 16th c. It is the largest discovered on the island to date and is found in the Roiho Sector at the east end of the island.

The expedition, which began in 2005, uncovered 45 caves with a whole host of archaeological finds, including arrow-heads, spears, axes, utensils, petroglyphs, and the skeletons of some 30 persons. Said Claudio Cristino of the Universidad de Chile, who took part in the expedition, "The most common use [of the cave] was in periods of tribal warfare, when the caves would turn into secret chambers where islanders would protect themselves. Cristino went on to say, "They also would have been used as a site to collect water..."

The discovery of the cave system came during the fourth expedition, led by the Spanish Alfonso Antxia Society of Speleological Sciences, along with Italian experts and Chilean archaeologists. Said Jabier Les, president of the Society, which led the expedition alongside a team of Italian experts and Chilean archaeologists. "In each expedition we charted the island and its caverns, being surprised by a series of finds. But to find a system of natural galleries more than six kilometers long in such a small, distant island was astonishing".

"It has been a revelation", said Enrique Tucki, administrator of the Rapa Nui National Park. "We knew these caves existed — they have been there for centuries — but we had not taken into account their variety, quantity, and peculiarity".

The discovery will be featured on the TV show "Science Hunters", for which the state-owned TV network TVN is negotiating the rights. In June, National Geographic also showed a documentary entitled "Easter Island Underground", about the exploration of the caves by a Polish team. The NG documentary was shown across Latin America during the month of July to coincide with an exhibition at La Moneda (the Cultural Center of Chile's presidential palace) entitled "Rapa Nui Spirit". The exhibition included some 300 historical artefacts from Easter Island and on one Saturday alone was visited by over 3,500 *Santiaguinos*.

Sources: *La Tercera* & *El Mercurio* (July 9, 2009)

PIER REVIEWED

A report featured in the *Santiago Times* stated that Chile's Ministry of Public Works (MOP) announced a decision to fund construction of a new docking pier for Easter Island. MOP studies suggest three options for the location of the pier: Hanga Piko, Vinapu, and Papa Haoa.

Source: *MercoPress* (May 28, 2009)

Editor's Note: This isn't the first time the subject of a pier on Easter Island has been considered. A *Rapa Nui News* item from September 17, 1999 relates that a team of professionals from the Dirección de Obras Portuarias (DOP, or the Department of Port Works), traveled to the island for an inspection of alternatives for the construction of a new pier. Citing as a source *El Mercurio de Valparaíso* from June 30, 1999, *Rapa Nui News* stated that the project was presented to the regional

government and DOP's director, Mario Muñoz E., who saw it as a solution to one of the oldest island problems. According to Muñoz, there was little chance of success because of the costs involved (a minimum estimated at around \$50 million) as well as opposition by the islanders. It is said that the project almost got off the ground in 1984 but an earthquake in Chile a year later absorbed all assigned funds and, until now, the project had not been reconsidered because of the costs involved.

ACCORDING TO THE *TE RAPA NUI* WEB SITE, the King El Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Shah and Queen Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Nur Zahirah of Malaysia visited Easter Island between April 18 and 23, 2009. The royal couple stayed for six hours. Two days later actor John Travolta landed his 707 at Mataverí for a brief re-fueling before he continued en route to Buenos Aires.

A PERSONAL REPORT FROM THE ISLAND reveals that there are now approximately 4 cars for every person on the island! If true, and based on the most recent population estimates, that means over 19,000 cars!

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PACIFIC

STATEHOOD CELEBRATION/PROTEST

In Honolulu, Hawai'i's Statehood Day was a mix of celebration and protest, as a group of about a thousand demonstrators were expected to rally outside the Hawai'i Convention Center. Said Lynette Cruz, organizer of the Hawaiian Independence Action Alliance, "We want to show how U.S. imperialism has spread across the Pacific and across the world. It'll be fun". [Fun?] Previous statehood anniversaries haven't always been peaceful. In 2006 American-flag-waving Statehood Day celebrants and Hawaiian sovereignty advocates clashed at Iolani Palace, the heart of the Hawaiian monarchy as the conflict turned into a shouting match. Last year police arrested 23 members of a Hawaiian pro-sovereignty group who broke into the palace, locked its gates, and posted signs that read, "Property of the Kingdom of Hawaiian Trust".

Source: *Yahoo! News* (August 21, 2009)

MASSIVE QUAKE MOVES NEW ZEALAND TOWARDS AUSTRALIA

"The first thing we're gonna have to do is buy all new globes". — *King Ralph*

A massive 7.8-magnitude earthquake last week (the largest in nearly 80 years) moved the south of New Zealand some 30 cm (12") closer to Australia. A small tsunami triggered by the earthquake registered on tidal gauges as only 1 m (39"), though there were some land slips and slight damage to some buildings when it struck.

Source: *Breitbart.com* (July 22, 2009)

WORLD'S LARGEST TELESCOPE TO BE BUILT IN HAWAII

Hawai'i is slated to have the largest telescope in the world, with a mirror 100 ft. (30 m) in diameter. It will be so

large it should be able to gather light that will have spent 13 billion years traveling to Earth. This means astronomers looking into this telescope will be able to see images of the first stars and galaxies forming a mere 400 million years after the Big Bang. The telescope, expected to be completed by 2018, will be located atop a dormant volcano of Mauna Kea on the Big Island (at an altitude of 13,796 ft. [4.18 km]), and should afford 300 viewing days a year.

Source: *Yahoo! News* (July 21, 2009)

TUVALU VOWS TO STOP USING FOSSIL FUELS

Under threat from rising seas caused by global warming, the island nation of Tuvalu announced that it is going to be doing its part for climate change by fueling its economy entirely from renewable sources by 2020. With a population of approximately 12,000 persons, Tuvalu joins a movement of countries and cities committed to going climate-neutral.

Tuvalu hopes to replace the fossil fuels it imports by cargo ship with solar energy and wind power, a project expected to cost \$20 million. So far, it has installed a 40-kilowatt solar-energy system.

Source: *Arizona Republic* (July 20, 2009)

MIGRATION LINKED TO TOXIN

Researchers at the Florida Institute of Technology, using archaeological evidence, prehistoric climate data, and recent reports of ciguatera poisoning (a foodborne illness caused by eating reef species whose flesh is contaminated with a toxin), theorize that climate conditions conducive to ciguatera outbreaks may have occurred in French Polynesia between 1000 CE and 1450 CE — an active period of Polynesian voyaging and colonization — and, rather than wanderlust, these factors may have inspired early Polynesians wayfarers to undertake risky voyages across the Pacific to Hawai'i, New Zealand, and Easter Island.

Source: *Honolulu Advertiser* (July 15, 2009)

EL NIÑO ARRIVES IN THE PACIFIC

Scientists in the U.S. have announced the arrival of El Niño — the cyclical rise in sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, influencing fisheries and global weather patterns, which occurs every two to five years, lasts about a year, and is associated with a weakening in the easterly trade wind. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington DC, the current El Niño is expected to continue developing over the next several months and to last through the Winter. Previous El Niños have seen more rainfall over the central tropical Pacific, drought in Indonesia, and powerful Winter storms in California as well as flooding and mudslides in Central and South America. The phenomenon has also been linked to reduced hurricane activity in the Atlantic and additional Winter precipitation in the arid southwestern United States.

Source: *Nature* 450 (7253):317 (2009)